(a) whether there is increase of mortality due to cancer in Assam;

(b) whether there is lack of cancer treatment services in districts like Barpeta which require therapy centre, etc., for cancer treatment;

(c) whether the State Government has approached Government for assistance in this regard;

(d) whether any Central team will visit Barpeta and other districts of the State to assess the problem and redressal thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the problem of cancer disease in these districts will be covered under NRHM;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) As reported by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the data from Population Based Registries at Assam does not indicate any increase in mortality rate due to cancer in Assam.

Health is a State subject and it is for the State Government to provide the treatment facilities to the patients for diseases including Cancer. This Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 44.00 lakhs as Grant-in-aid to Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati for undertaking District Cancer Control Programme in the districts of Barpeta, Nalbari, Darrang, Kamrup, Marigaon and Nagaon in Assam.

The Central Team is sent for inspection only after proposals complete in all respects are received in this Ministry for financial assistance under scheme of National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP).

(f) to (h) Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) grant-in-aid is provided to various State Governments for upgradation of the district hospitals in their respective States.

Investment in the healthcare system

3722. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Private Equity and Venture Capital (PE and VC) have invested over $2 bn. into Healthcare and Life Sciences companies in India over the last five years and are keen to step up the pace of investments in the industry;

(b) whether over 42 per cent of PE and VC investors felt that there was a strong opportunity to tap market for healthcare services in semi-urban and rural areas; and

(c) if so, to what extent Government has agreed to help and assist these companies in India and what assistance provided to these sectors to improve healthcare investment?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Venture Intelligence, a division of India based TSJ Media Pvt. Ltd. carried out a survey of Private Equity and Venture Capital firms and brought out a study report titled "Private Equity Pulse on Healthcare and Life Sciences". According to the study report, Private Equity and Venture Capital investors have invested over $2 billon into Healthcare and Life Sciences (HLS) companies in India over the last five years and are keen to step up the pace of investments in this industry. As per the findings of the survey, over 42% of investors felt that there was a strong opportunity to tap the market for Healthcare services in increasingly prosperous semi-urban and rural areas.

(c) No specific requests have been received.

Food labelling

3723. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has requested State Governments not to book cases against companies not complying with Health Ministry's recently notified nutritional labelling provisions on packaged foods for next three months more;

(b) whether packaged food manufacturers must declare on their product labels, nutritional information to enable consumers make informed choices while purchasing;

(c) whether Ministry had on September, 2008 notified Prevention of Food Adulteration (5th Amendment) Rules, 2008 mandating packaged food manufacturers to declare on their product labels, the nutritional information; and

(d) if so, the reasons for asking States not to book cases on erring food companies?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Central Government issued notification G.S.R. No. 664(E) dated 19.9.2008 under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 making it mandatory for the manufacturers of all packaged food items to indicate on the labels of the product the nutritional information, and claims made with regard to the amount or type of fatty acids, the amounts of cholesterol, saturated fatty acids, monounsaturated fatty acids, polyunsaturated fatty acids, claims about the product being free from Trans Fat, etc.

The intention of the notification, which, read with the corrigendum No. G.S.R. 135(E) dated 27.2.09 came into effect on 19.3.2009 was that the food manufacturers ensure that the products are suitable labeled and consumers, are able to make an informed choice for use of these products with the help of the information provided on the lable of food packages. After the said labeling provisions were notified, the Government received numerous representations from the industry *inter alia* seeking additional time so that it could prepare itself to accommodate these requirements.

After considering the issues raised in the representations received, especially the constraints faced by the small scale manufacturers, the Government issued advisory to the